

Powers to Get Welcome Home

ROANOKE, Va., Mar. 9 (AP). —It's home to the hills "on Monday or Tuesday" for freed U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers. That is the word from Pound, his hometown, and Norton, where his father works.

A big homecoming reception is planned in Norton, a community of 5,000 people in the southwestern corner of Virginia.

Mr. Powers was reported undergoing a physical checkup at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D. C., after spending 21 months in a Soviet prison for aerial espionage. He was freed February 10 in exchange for master spy Rudolf Abel.

The welcome will "be just a local effort—to tell him we're glad to have him back," the source said.

Details of the reception were to be worked out at a meeting of Norton, Pound and Wise County civic leaders.